



# WISCONSIN REGULATORY DIGEST

## A Publication of the HEARING AND SPEECH EXAMINING BOARD

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### Continuing Education

The Hearing and Speech Examining Board was recently asked to respond to a question regarding a Continuing Education sponsor's (State Organization) requirements in providing documentation of attendance at a pre-owned CE course.

Specifically, if the sponsor does not offer the CE tracking mechanisms of the applicable national organizations, what "proof" does the licensee have of attendance at the CE session? This dilemma will occur for courses individually approved by the board as well as those recognized by the previously approved State and National Organizations (The American Academy

of Audiology, The International Hearing Society, The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the Department of Public Instruction and the National Board for Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences.)

Along with other requirements placed upon the sponsor, the Hearing and Speech Examining Board's legal counsel referenced paragraph C, subsection 2 of HAS 8.04, Code which states, "the program or course sponsor agrees to monitor the attendance, furnish a certificate of attendance to each participant and maintain records verifying attendance for at least 5 years". It is, of course, primarily the licensee's responsibility to document attendance at course work relative to his or her profession. However, the sponsoring organization shares the responsibility with the licensee to help prove the relevance of the material presented and the "documented attendance" at the approved courses.

Further questions or concerns can be answered by referencing Chapter HAS 8 "Continuing Education Requirements", found in the "Wisconsin Statutes and Administrative Code Relating to the Hearing and Speech Examining

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Board" March 1999. To obtain a copy of this administrative code or obtain answers to specific questions regarding the Continuing Education requirements, requests should be directed to Patrick Braatz, Administrator, of the Department of Regulation and Licensing, P.O. Box 8935, Madison, WI 53708.

### **Continuing Education-Revisited**

Licensees may meet their twenty clock hour per two year continuing education requirements by taking courses that are approved for continuing education by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the American Academy of Audiology, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, the International Hearing Society, or the National Board for Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences. However, licensees may also take courses not approved by these organizations.

Other organizations or entities that wish to sponsor a course not approved by the organizations listed above may seek prior approval from the Board to have that course count for continuing education. Once the course is approved, licensees may register for the course and count those clock hours toward the requirement. Organizations and entities wishing to create and administer a course should contact the Board to obtain a copy of the required procedures. Applications must be submitted at least forty-five business days prior to the first date the program is to be offered. The application shall include the name of the sponsor, the program title, general description and an outline of the program, the dates, the location, and the name and qualifications of each instructor.

Individual licensees will not be approved as continuing education sponsors.

Continuing education programs or courses of study offered by alternative delivery methods such as home-study courses, self-study packages, computer courses, televideo

conferencing and other methods may be approved by the Board.

Courses that are approved for continuing education by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the American Academy of Audiology, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, the International Hearing Society, and the National Board for Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences shall be accepted by the Board. Courses that are not approved may be accepted by the Board. Applicants must contact the Board for further instructions.

### **Unlicensed Practice**

Wisconsin statutes (Section 459.24) provide that no person may engage in the practice of speech-language pathology or audiology unless that person holds a current license granted by the examining board. It is a violation to practice speech-language pathology or audiology prior to receiving this license. The board recently dealt with a number of cases in which individuals who made application to the Board commenced their employment prior to completing the licensing process.

An individual who has applied for a license may only commence practice as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist when the board has granted the license. Only when the license is granted may the license holder use the term "speech-language pathologist" or "audiologist".

Chapter 459 provides for a temporary license only for those individuals who are in the process of completing their postgraduate clinical fellowship year ("CFY"). A temporary license is not otherwise available. **AN INDIVIDUAL MUST OBTAIN A TEMPORARY LICENSE FROM THE BOARD BEFORE COMMENCING A CFY.** For example, an individual who moves into Wisconsin from another state, and who holds the Certificate of Clinical Competence from ASHA, or an individual employed in the

Wisconsin public schools who holds a license from the Department of Public Instruction and the ASHA CCC, and obtains a job that requires a license under Chapter 459, may not apply for a temporary license. These individuals, and their supervisors, are urged to submit the application for licensure well in advance of the onset of employment.

An unlicensed person may assist in the practice of speech language pathology or Audiology under the supervision of a license holder who takes full responsibility for the actions of the unlicensed person. The license holder must document the actions of the unlicensed person. For speech-language pathologists, the supervising license holder must provide direct observation of the clinical services provided by the individual to patients during 220 of the first 720 hours following the individual's training and provide on-site observation and evaluation of clinical care provided by the individual to each patient a minimum of 2 out of every 10 sessions, or 2 sessions each month including the final session, whichever is sooner. For audiologists, the supervising license holder must provide comprehensive, periodic, and documented supervision which must include, but is not limited to: 1) identifying specific roles and tasks for the individual; 2) ensuring that the tasks performed by the individual do not require the exercise of professional judgment, the interpretation of test results or the development or modification of treatment plans, and 3) Providing appropriate training that is competency-based and specific to job performance. More information about the role of unlicensed persons can be found in Ch. HAS 6, Code.

License holder supervisors may also be in violation if they knowingly employ individuals to work as speech-language pathologists or audiologists who have not yet been granted a license by the board. All individuals are urged to submit their

application for their license well in advance of the onset of employment.

### **Department of Regulation and Licensing Expands Credential Verification Services**

The Department of Regulation and Licensing has added a feature at the department's web site (<http://www.drl.state.wi.us>) which will allow employers and members of the public to verify the status of professional credentials held by nearly 280,000 individuals.

Once the department's web site is accessed, users may click on "Credential Holder Query" and they will gain access to the department's credential data base where they can verify whether an individual holds a current license in any of the professions regulated by the department.

"Giving employers and consumers the ability to directly access this information on the Internet makes it easier for the public to verify whether a person is entitled to practice a profession in Wisconsin," Secretary Marlene Cummings said. "It will also be an effective deterrent to efforts by any individuals to successfully misrepresent their credential status since anyone with a computer and internet access can quickly verify whether the credential is actually held by that individual," Cummings added.

### **Disciplines**

TINA A. SPELLMAN, SPEECH-  
LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST  
EVANSTON IL SUSPENDED

Failed to complete the continuing education requirements set forth in the March 8, 1999 stipulation in violation of the board's March 12, 1999 final decision and order. Her license is suspended until she completes the continuing education course work. Effective 3/14/2000.

ARIC J. WORMINGTON, SPEECH-  
LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST  
MILWAUKEE WI REPRIMAND  
Practiced speech-language pathology prior to the issuance of a license. Effective 1/7/2000.

Department of Regulation and Licensing  
Hearing and Speech Examining Board  
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# REGULATORY DIGEST

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## Telephone Directory

**Automated Phone System for the Health Professions: (608) 266-2811**

Press 1 **Request Application**

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Press 6 **Repeat Menu Choices**

**ALL verification requests must be in writing. Requests for verifications to other states must be in writing.** The cost is \$10. Please make out check or money order to the Department of Regulation and Licensing.

## Digest on Web Site

The November 1997, February, 1999 and September, 1999 digests are on the Web.

## Visit the Department's Web Site

<http://www.drl.state.wi.us/>

Send comments to [dorl@drl.state.wi.us](mailto:dorl@drl.state.wi.us)

## 2000 Board Meeting Dates

May 15, June 26, September 18, and December 4

## Wisconsin Statutes and Code

Copies of the Hearing and Speech Examining Board Statutes and Administrative Code can be ordered from the Department. Include your name, address, county and a check payable to the Department of Regulation and Licensing in the amount of \$5.28. The latest edition is dated March, 1999.

## Change of Name or Address?

Please photocopy the mailing label of this digest, make changes in name or address, and return it to the Department. Confirmation of changes are not automatically provided.

**WIS. STATS. S. 440.11 ALLOWS FOR A \$50 PENALTY TO BE IMPOSED WHEN CHANGES ARE NOT REPORTED WITHIN 30 DAYS.**

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